



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

November 3, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors,
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, I am writing to express our overwhelming support of the re-appointment of Julie Tritt Schell to fill the vacancy on the board of directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company as a schools' representative. Julie has been the Pennsylvania E-rate Coordinator since the program's first days and has worked earnestly with and on behalf of the Commonwealth and our public and private schools and libraries, making sure they understand the program, are able to apply successfully, follow changing program rules, and use E-rate funding to help meet their education goals. In addition, as co-chair of the State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance (SECA), she has represented all states before the FCC and SLD since the program's inception in an effort to advocate for the school and library community. One goal she steadfastly undertakes is to make E-rate accessible to all applicants – no matter how small or large – so that educational technology resources will be available as ubiquitously as possible for such initiatives as distance learning, training and professional development, and interesting and innovative content to augment curricula and lesson plans.

She currently serves as the Chair of the Schools and Libraries Committee, and also serves on the Board's Executive and Audit Committees. We believe that the USAC board would continue to benefit greatly from the perspectives Julie has gained from serving at the state education department level as well as from her daily contact with the school and library applicants and state E-rate Coordinators from 46 other states. We know first-hand her depth of knowledge of the program, her understanding of school fiscal and procurement operations, and school technology needs. Because of her outstanding credentials and experience, we strongly encourage the Commission to re-appoint Ms. Tritt Schell to the USAC board as the schools' representative.

Sincerely,

Pedro Rivera
Secretary of Education